

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03380 141540Z

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S E C R E T USNATO 3380

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.)

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL, JUNE 26

DEPARTMENT PLASE PASS SECSTATE WITH PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

REF: USNATO 3375

1. DURING NAC MEETING AT 12/30 JUNE 14, SYG LUNS INFORMED PERMREPS THAT HE IS CALLING A COUNCIL MEETING AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL FOR JUNE 26. HE ALSO MADE OTHER POINTS CONTAINED PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL, AND SAID NATO WOULD ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 14 THAT LUNS HAD ISSUED INVITATIONS.

2. FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE CITED CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENCY OF FRANCE, ON THE ONE HAND, AND U.S. ON THE OTHER. IF LUNS INVITED FRENCH PRESIDENT, LATTER WOULD GIVE INVITATION DUE ATTENTION. LUNS SAID HE WOULD INVITE THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND FONMIN OF FRANCE.

3. CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES FORMALLY RECORDED THAT CANADA HAD ON SHORT NOTICE AGREED TO HOST THE JUNE COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND HAD WORKED TO INSURE ITS SUCCESS TO MAKR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIANCE. IN VIEW OF CANADA'S EFFORTS AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS, GOC MAINTAINED THAT THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 03380 141540Z

SHOULD BE APPROVED IN SOME PUBLIC WAY OR CEREMONY AT OTTAWA. THE OTTAWA MINISTERIAL SHOULD NOT BE ECLIPSED, ALTHOUGH GOC DID NOT WANT TO DETRACT FROM A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING.

4. LUNS SAID THE DECLARATION WOULD BE APPROVED AND MADE PUBLIC IN OTTAWA, AND WOULD BE SIGNED AT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AT NATO. (EVEN THOUGH LUNS USED THE TITLE "DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS" IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO PERMREPS, DRAFT INVITATION LETTER, AND DRAFT PRESS RELEASE, HE SAID "OTTAWA DECLARATION" ONCE WHILE RESPONDING TO MENZIES. WE WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT LUNS USES TITLE U.S. PREFERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN SPEAKING PUBLICLY.

5. BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE SAID HIS COUNTRY, AS HOST TO ALLIANCE, WAS HIGHLY HONORED AT THE U.S. INITIATIVE. BELGIUM WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TOMAKE THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AND PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT A SUCCESS. HE DID NOT WISH TO ECLIPSE "OTTAWA DECLARATION."

6. NETHERLANDS AND FRG PERMREPS POINTED OUT THERE HAD BEEN NO COUNCIL DECISION TO SIGN AN ATLANTIC DECLARATION, BUT LUNS CUT OFF THESE ARGUMENTS AND MAINTAINED THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY REPEAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SIGNATURE.

7. RUMSFELD (U.S.) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING CLOSELY THE INFORMATION LUNS HAD JUST GIVEN PERMREPS ABOUT PLANS FOR A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING SO THAT MINISTERS WOULD LEARN OF THEIR INVITATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS, NOT THE PRESS.
RUMSFELD

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